



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Central African Republic

Central African Republic: Opposition Leader Accused of Insulting Patasse Acquitted

AB2102191696 Paris AFP in French
1603 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangui, 21 Feb (AFP) — Tchakpa Mbredé, national secretary of the opposition Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ADP], who was sued for "insulting the head of state," was acquitted today by the Bangui High Court, judicial sources disclosed. The court gave this verdict after noting that there was not enough evidence to support the charge, these sources add.

Mr. Mbredé was jailed on 19 January and was granted bail on 14 February. He was accused of stating at an opposition rally that President Ange-Félix Patasse has violated Article 22 of the Central African Republic Constitution which states that the functions of the President of the Republic are incompatible with any other function or employment. The opposition complained to the Supreme Court that President Patasse violated that article by taking over the function of chairman of the Executive Committee of the ruling Movement for the Liberation of the Central African People.

Gabon

Gabon: Politicians View Paris Agreements, Elections

AB2102173096 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Gabon's leading opposition party, the National Lumberjacks Rally [RNB], held a news conference in Libreville this morning. The media briefing centered on the implementation of the Paris agreements. According to the RNB leader, Father Paul Mba Abessole, in order to ensure a smooth implementation of these agreements signed between the presidential majority and the opposition, the forthcoming elections must be organized in the following order:

[Begin Abessole recording] Intellectual discipline demands that the electoral law, drafted by consensus, be passed first. This must be followed by the establishment of the national electoral commission. It is the commission which is empowered to organize the elections, therefore, it is up to the commission to fix the election dates in accordance with the rules of transparency. Let us stick to this arrangement, and we will save ourselves a lot of squabbles, and ensure our international credibility.

We must put a stop to the unending wranglings over the election deadlines which make us forget entirely about

the cardinal issue of ensuring electoral transparency. Transparency is the only condition for restoring lasting peace in our country. Let us set up a joint commission of experts from both the opposition and presidential majority to settle all the problems resulting from the divergent interpretation of the Paris agreements. [end recording]

As you just heard from Father Paul Mba Abessole's statement to François-Luc Moukoko, transparency is the key to the implementation of the Paris accords. Transparency, he stressed, will simply put a lid on the controversy over setting deadlines. In short, the RNB leader seems to be advocating flexibility in the implementation of the Paris agreements which expire in May. However, the presidential majority, notably the Gabonese Democratic Party [PDG], which is the main RNB component, holds the view that the 18-month timetable fixed for the implementation of the Paris agreements, must be strictly adhered to. The same view has been expressed by (Guy Nzoungendo), leader of the PDG parliamentary group, who was contacted by telephone by François-Luc Moukoko.

[Begin (Nzoungendo) recording] Once again we are being made to understand that politics takes precedence over the law. We have a Constitution and the Gabonese people have approved the revision of this Constitution by referendum. We only have to stick to the dates fixed by the Constitution. The problem is that a joint commission is also a kind of co-management, an idea which our countrymen who belong to the RNB have never endorsed. Right from the beginning they refused to be part of the government for democracy, therefore I say, I agree with the setting up of the mechanisms for transparency but this must be done in line with the Constitution. [end recording]

Rwanda

Rwanda: Prime Minister Dismisses Amnesty Report on Refugees

EA2202102796 Kigali Radio Rwanda in English
0515 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rwandan Prime Minister Pierre-Celestin Rwigyema has dismissed reports by Amnesty International that the return of Rwandan refugees in large numbers may cause insecurity and turmoil in the country. The prime minister said such reports are intended to hinder the refugees from returning home and to hamper the Rwandan Government's efforts in facilitating the return of refugees. Mr. Rwigyema said since the UN refugee agency and other UN organizations are working hand in hand with the Rwandan Government in receiving the refugees, and

have not mentioned such cases, it's clear testimony that those predicting trouble at the refugees' return have their own bad intentions. The prime minister said the refugees are returning because they have realized that the country is safe.

And on this note, he cited the visits by Rwandan Government officials to the refugee camps, calling for the refugees to return. The prime minister concluded by calling upon the international community to assist Rwanda in the resettlement of the Rwandan refugees.

Zaire

Zaire: Government Announces Measures for Rwandan Refugees' Return

LD2102165396 Brussels La Une Radio Network in French 1600 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Zaire has just announced a series of measures which favor the repatriation of Rwandan refugees who live in camps in Zaire. The Zairean Government has decided to stop all UNHCR activity as well as that of non-government organizations, in the two camps located in the north-east of Zaire. The two camps, where more than 200,000 refugees live, should be closed down.

Zaire: Government Bans Rwandan Refugee Organization, RDR

AB2102151896 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kinshasa, 21 Feb (AFP) — Zaire on Wednesday [21 February] outlawed the principal Hutu Rwandan refugee organization Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy to Rwanda (RDR). In a communique, issued "on behalf of the government," deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, Gerard Kamanda Wa Kamanda, said the government will arrest and deport RDR officials. Tanzania has already banned the RDR.

Zaire: Hutu Refugees, Local Ethnic Group Reportedly Fight in East

AB2102213596 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 21 Feb 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As if there wasn't enough trouble in eastern Zaire where hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees have been encamped since 1994, there are now reports of a miniwar between

Hutu militias of the Interahamwe and a local tribe, the Humde. The reports say the Hutus were apparently trying to take over an area of eastern Zaire. Walter Van Empolen, head of Medecins Sans Frontieres in Goma, has just been to the conflict zone. On the line, William Wallace asked him how bad the fighting was:

[Begin recording] [Empolen] Well, it's quite serious actually because there are a lot of human suffering involved in it. I was going to the place of Muenzo in Tchitchianga and what you see happening actually is that people from the center of the Masisi area, especially the Humde people, are now displacing themselves to these strongholds of Humde like Tchichiana.

[Wallace] How many people in total do you think are displaced by this fighting?

[Empolen] It's difficult to say but at least in Tchitchianga, which was a place of about a 1,200 people which has now 24,000 people, and a place like Swake, where there are about 10,000 displaced people now. [sentence as heard]

[Wallace] And who exactly is attacking these Zairian villages?

[Empolen] Well, it's first of all.... [Empolen pauses] The area has 600,000 people of which 450,000 Hutu and 150,000 Humde, of which the Hutu are in the majority. Everybody in the area is convinced that those Hutu from Masisi are now also lining up with the Hutu from the camps.

[Wallace] In other words they form a Rwandan Army and Interahamwe?

[Empolen] Correct, and what the people are telling me is that this is a chronic conflict which has existed already for years and years, but for example, two years ago, every time when there is a flareup, they shoot at each other with bows and arrows and they use machetes, but now what the people are telling us, they are attacked by groups of 100 and 150 with very heavy weapons like machine guns and rocket launchers.

[Wallace] And are these natives of the area able to respond to this kind of weapon power?

[Empolen] Absolutely not. Of course they seem to be afraid. They see Zairian Army is also in the area, especially the paracommandos, but the area is so far and so big that it is very difficult to pacify this whole area because it's like pockets of people attacking small villages and then continuing after looting the village. [end recording]

Eritrea

Eritrea: Foreign Minister Petros Solomon Returns From African Tour

EA2102170696 *Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya* 1600 GMT 20 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An Eritrean Government delegation led by Foreign Minister Petros Solomon returned to Asmara today after delivering President Isaias Afwerki's message to the presidents of Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania and holding discussions with them.

During the meeting with the three presidents in their respective countries, on 16, 17, and 19 February, Minister Petros said the Government of Eritrea and President Isaias want to have a comprehensive relationship with African countries and, in particular, to strengthen economic ties, peace, and stability. They are working hard for its implementation.

On the issue of the Hanish Archipelago, the minister stressed that Yemen is responsible for the conflict. He went on to tell the three presidents that the Government of Eritrea is doing everything, through legal means, to peacefully resolve the problem. [passage omitted]

On 19 February, he met the Kenyan foreign minister and held talks on bilateral relations and the situation on the Hanish Archipelago, according to reports received from the Kenyan Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Kenya

Kenya: Moi Says United States Should Offer Better Trading Terms

EA2202093996 *Nairobi KTN Television Network in English* 1600 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Daniel arap Moi today said that if the U.S. was serious about doing business with Africa, then it should offer better trading terms. The president was delivering a keynote address at the United States-Kenya business roundtable seminar at the Grand Regency hotel.

The head of state said it was about time the United States accorded African countries the most favored status on trade. Present at the same function was U.S. Secretary for Commerce Ron Brown, who attributed lack of investment to ignorance and bad press reports.

[Begin recording] [Moi] Now it is my first time to address a small group of American business people who have come to observe the situation here in Kenya. I do not know whether they are serious to invest or they are curious but I appeal to them that they should be serious if they want to make money. We have done the best we could — political reforms, economic reforms, structural adjustment by World Bank and IMF, painful — which has created a vacuum. And we need this vacuum to be filled by donors helping in social dimension- areas, where we think should help, need to be helped to strengthen the economy of the country. [sentence as heard] While investors are investing, people should feel they are also safe. [passage omitted comprising Brown's recorded remarks] [end recording]

South Africa: Report Says U.S. 'Wasted' Opportunity on African Trade*MB2102174996 Johannesburg FINANCIAL MAIL in English 16 Feb 96 pp 41, 42*

[Report by Simon Barber]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Clinton administration has wasted an opportunity to devise a coherent long-term strategy to help Africa benefit from the tide of international trade and investment flows.

This has happened at a time when official development assistance from all sources is in steep and terminal decline.

A 58-page White Paper, sent to Congress, under the title A Comprehensive Trade and Development Policy for the Countries of Africa, offers a grab-bag of 61 "initiatives." Many are existing programmes, warmed over and re-served of the discredited US Agency for International Development.

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown is on his way to the continent again, with the usual large entourage. He will emphasise, according to the document, that "the private sector holds the key to Africa's development and future prosperity as well as the US's readiness to be a full partner in Africa's efforts to build free enterprise."

This means the US is interested primarily in an export market. There isn't much of one now, accounting for only 100,000 US jobs or half the number lost to domestic corporate trimming in the last month alone. It is also noted — more than once — that the US share of the overall sub-Saharan import market is a tiny 7.7%, compared with the European Union share of 41%.

What is lacking is a vision of how the US, with its foreign affairs budget under pressure, can effectively contribute to the changes it seeks in its own commercial interest. To find that, you have to turn to the draft, submitted by the office of the US Trade Representative last November, almost all of which was left on the cutting room floor.

While the 18 other agencies, involved in the policy exercise, fretted about how to get their pet projects into the paper, Trade Representative special counsel Howard Reed asked: what is the major impediment to increased investment in Africa, which the world's dominant economic and diplomatic power is best positioned to address? Answer: the lack of regional economic integration.

The point has been made repeatedly by groups like the US Corporate Council on Africa that, except for SA [South Africa] and Nigeria, few African countries con-

stitute big enough markets to draw substantial foreign investment in the value-added sector. To grow sustainably, economies need to diversify — and integrate.

"The key to increasing the size of the African marketplace," the Trade Representative draft stated, was "the elimination of barriers to cross-border trade and the creation of integrated transport and communication systems." It proposed helping the Southern African Development Community [SADC], "the most promising experiment of its kind," fulfill its goal of ending internal trade barriers and export subsidies by the turn of the century, and nurturing similar initiatives.

Suggestions include treating the region as one country for the purposes of the US Generalised System of Preferences and increasing the range of exports enjoying duty- and quota-free treatment. This would make it advantageous for SA firms, for whom these benefits are not as generous as they are for other countries, to get inputs for US-bound exports from African producers.

Another interesting proposal is that the US should negotiate tax, investment and intellectual property agreements through the SADC rather than with each member state. This would perhaps be asking more of the institution than it is capable of doing. But that's partly the point. The community should be able to speak on behalf of all members. It is also important to achieve uniformity in tax codes and regulation.

The US makes best use of its economic and diplomatic muscle when it identifies a clear objective. An example is former Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Chester Crocker's efforts to end what he called the "cycle of violence" in southern Africa. His initiatives arguably played an important part in setting the scene for SA's transformation.

The US might do well to adopt a similarly focused approach to promoting Africa's economic transformation. In his tightly written 15-page draft, Reed may have come close to formulating the appropriate strategy, matching US means to the region's ends. But it was not to be. He lost a Washington turf war and the status quo prevails.

South Africa: Energy Minister—No Uranium Sent to Iran in Last 5 Years*MB2102175496 Johannesburg SABA in English 1658 GMT 21 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NATIONAL ASSEMBLY Feb 21 SABA — According to the available records no uranium had been supplied in any form to Iran during the past five years, Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha said on Wednesday.

Replying to a question by Colin Eglin (DP [Democratic Party]), Botha said he was not aware of any announcement by the government to supply uranium to Iran in any form. However, he did recall that some years ago a commercial contract was contemplated for the supply of uranium to Iran for peaceful purposes within the regulatory framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency. This contract was later abandoned.

South Africa: Sweden Offers More Aid to Truth Commission

*MB2102182796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1645 GMT 21 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN Feb 21 SAPA — Sweden has donated R1 million [rands] towards setting up a sophisticated computer database to help the Truth Commission piece together a full picture of human rights abuses over the past 30 years.

And more foreign aid in the form of financial and technical assistance is expected in the next few weeks following two-and-a-half hour talks between members of the commission and European Union ambassadors in Cape Town on Wednesday. Commission chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu, his deputy, Dr Alex Boraine, and the head of the commission's investigative unit, Dumisa Ntsebeza, briefed the group of about 15 ambassadors on the task facing the commission.

The ambassadors were told the commission's most pressing need was experienced international detectives to help staff its 60-member investigation unit, Boraine said in an interview afterwards. The commissioners also appealed for legal aid for victims appearing before the commission, and help in setting up the database, crucial in verifying, analysing and co-ordinating the information collected.

Boraine said the commission hoped to recruit at least 20 foreign investigators, four of whom would be seconded to the unit's "Super 12" management structure. Ireland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden had already promised to send nine investigators. The first three — from the Netherlands — would be arriving soon in South Africa.

A strong case had also been presented at the meeting for help with basic equipment such as vehicles, computers, radios and cameras. Asked whether this equipment should not be financed by the South African Government, Boraine said: "We are mindful of the fact that they have a lot of other priorities such as health, housing and education.

"They may feel our budget is more than they can afford."

Giant strides had been made in drawing up the budget, following the recent appointment of a financial manager. It was due to be considered by the commission executive's at a meeting on Friday [23 February]. "My guess is that it will be in excess of R55 million, but not drastically so," he said.

If the financial burden could be shared with the international community this would enable the commission to do more in less time. Norway has already donated R2.5 million but had not yet decided how it wanted the money spent.

Boraine said the ambassadors had indicated they would respond collectively to the commission's requests. However, this would not prevent individual EU states from making donations. The commission intended holding similar briefings with the United States and Canadian ambassadors. Tutu has already held discussions with the Japanese, Austrian, Polish and Swiss ambassadors.

South Africa: Algeria Reverses Decision To Recall Ambassador

*MB2102182296 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio
in English 1500 GMT 21 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algeria and South Africa appear to have patched up their differences over President Nelson Mandela's controversial meeting with a leader of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front. Algeria lodged a formal protest after Mr. Mandela met Mr. Anouar Had-dam in Cape Town late last week, and threatened to recall its ambassador, Mr. Said Kitouni. South African foreign affairs spokesman, Pieter Swanepoel, says the disagreement has been resolved in talks between Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo and Mr. Kitouni. Indications are that the envoy will no longer be recalled to Algiers. This was later confirmed by the Algerian Foreign Affairs Ministry, which said it had reversed its decision to recall Mr. Kitouni.

South Africa: Mandela's Invitation to al-Qadhdhafi Questioned

*MB2202135296 Pretoria PATRIOT in Afrikaans
16 Feb 96 p 6*

[Editorial: "Doctors and Gratitude"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The importation of Cuban doctors and the invitation to the Libyan terrorist al-Qadhdhafi to visit South Africa in the name of gratitude clearly show how Mandela is keen on getting South Africa in the company of communists and Arabs. President Mandela stated very clearly that he was eager to get the Cubans and al-Qadhdhafi to this country so that the South African nation could thank them for

their contribution to the so-called "struggle" against the whites by the ANC/SACP [South African Communist Party].

The Cuban doctors, of which more than a hundred are expected to arrive by the end of this month, are from a country where medical standards are considerably lower than those of South Africa. However, the Cubans have better "bedside manners" [preceding two words in English] than local doctors, Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma says. At the same time, it is being reported that these well-mannered doctors will arrive in South Africa without any knowledge of English, or more importantly, of a black language.

Lowering of standards is the most distinct feature of medical policy in the "new" South Africa. The neglect of hospitals is escalating; the problem of recruiting and training nurses is worse than ever before; research standards are dropping, and transplants are being limited. Now we are to be swamped with Third World second-rate doctors.

The importation of doctors from Cuba and later, in all probability, teachers as well, from the same overpopulated, impoverished country as the doctors, is all part of an effort to consolidate ties with the communists. Communism is dead, F.W. de Klerk said two years ago, but despite de Klerk's utterance, the Cuban, Polish, and Russian elections tell an entirely different story and have unquestionably proved the opposite to be true.

Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's only claim to fame is the fact that, since 1969, he has been running a communist Muslim dictatorship, and during that period he financed terrorist activities throughout the world. In 1977 he also occupied the uranium-rich northern parts of Chad from which he was driven out by another Muslim government, assisted by French troops. When Mandela said he was considering inviting al-Qadhafi to the country so that he could thank him, Mandela was also saying, al-Qadhafi "might be your — the West's — enemy, but he is our — the ANC/SACP's — friend." In South Africa, the ANC/SACP fought against Western governments, of which the Afrikaner and other whites were a part, with the ultimate objective of destroying the whites. Out of gratitude for this help to destroy the whites, Mandela and his supporters now want to say thank you. Through this move he makes it very clear that the whites, especially the Afrikaners, are the enemies that must be eradicated and this makes his talk about reconciliation a farce.

Mandela added that South Africa has to thank al-Qadhafi for his role in the past. We prefer, however, not to be in the same line with Mandela's gratitude givers.

South Africa: Intelligence Agency Denies Illegal Phone, Fax Intercepts

*MB2102195796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1940 GMT 21 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] PRETORIA Feb 21 SAPA — Claims of intelligence agents illegally intercepting telephone calls and fax communications were on Wednesday denied by the National Intelligence Agency [NIA].

"We are satisfied that what is happening with regard to domestic interception is legal," a spokesman said in Pretoria. He added Deputy Minister of Intelligence Services Joe Nhlanhla would hold a media briefing on the matter, but did not say when.

A Johannesburg newspaper earlier in the day reported intelligence agents were intercepting thousands of international and local telephone calls and fax communications. The report said much of the tapping, being done from a high-tech and top-secret facility, was unlawful and unconstitutional.

The NIA invited the newspaper to submit any proof of unlawful interceptions to the joint parliamentary committee on intelligence. "The committee comprising representatives of all political parties recently visited the facility referred to in the newspaper report," the spokesman said. [passage omitted]

The NIA said Nhlanhla had recently met senior representatives of the newspaper and explained to them the value of interceptions as a lawful way of gathering intelligence. "The meeting took place in a spirit of openness which is now pervading the civilian intelligence community," the spokesman said. The NIA said technical intelligence gathering was an accepted method used by sophisticated countries, including the most liberal Western democracies. "The use of this method in South Africa will be solely directed against the enemies of the state and against those who are acting against the laws and the constitution of the country."

The African National Congress said it was unaware of evidence that the NIA was undermining constitutional and legislative provisions regulating surveillance, and called for an investigation into the allegations. "There is however a pattern of allegations emerging which seems bent on creating impressions that the current intelligence services are no different from the old security establishment," the ANC said in a statement. The ANC said these allegations were false and intended to undermine the capacity of the state "to defend our fledgling democracy".

It also called for an investigation into the agenda behind the allegations. "It will be unfortunate if it were to be

established that those involved in such speculations are connected with the previous security establishment in an effort to undermine our democratic gains." [passage omitted]

South Africa: Mandela To Establish Panel To Probe NIA Spying Allegations

MB2202070196 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Nelson Mandela is to set up a judicial panel to probe allegations of spying on ministers and senior police officers by the state intelligence service. This announcement has been made by the Office of the President.

In a daily newspaper yesterday it was reported that the National Intelligence Agency [NIA] also spied on the general population by intercepting domestic and international telephone conversations and fax transmissions. The NIA had denied any wrong doing and says it is acting within the law. Mr. Mandela is currently studying a report on an internal probe carried out by the NIA regarding the espionage of senior officials. In the light of its conclusions, Mr. Mandela will appoint a judge to carry out an independent investigation.

South Africa: Police Launch Investigation Into Alleged Fraud by Minister

MB2102155596 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1500 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of social welfare and population development, Mr. Abe Williams, is being investigated by the Office of Serious Economic Offences for his possible involvement in a multimillion-rand pension payout fraud. His offices and homes in both Pretoria and Cape Town were raided this morning.

Mr. Williams, a National Party minister, denied any wrongdoing on his part. He spoke to our political news staff:

[Begin recording] [Williams] Well, I was very much surprised that it took place. I was never informed about it beforehand. My office gave them full cooperation. I will give them full cooperation and I'll issue a press statement, but further than that, I've got nothing to say.

[Unidentified SAfm Radio Network correspondent] Have you any idea what the investigation is about?

[Williams] According to the newspapers, it's about fraud investigations in the department of Western Cape. [end recording]

In a hastily convened briefing this afternoon, Western Cape MEC [member of the Executive Council] for

health and social services, Mr. Ebrahim Rasool, said that his department had launched an investigation into allegations of fraud in the pension payout system in his province. He claimed fraud was taking place not only at the payout points, but at a high political level.

Several months ago, an automated payout system was introduced in the province, and witnesses have suggested that the tender had been awarded to a company unfairly by Minister Williams. Mr. Rasool alleged that Mr. Williams had received large sums of money in order to favor particular companies.

South Africa: Health Minister Resigns in Wake of Fraud Investigation

MB2102183096 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1821 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN Feb 21 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela has accepted the resignation of Health and Welfare Minister Abe Williams, whose offices and homes were searched by staff of the Office of Serious Economic Offences on Wednesday.

Mandela's spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe told SAPA on Wednesday night that Mandela had been contacted by National Party [NP] leader and Deputy President F W de Klerk "indicating that Minister Williams has offered to resign with immediate effect". Mandela had accepted his resignation, Netshitenzhe said. Williams is an NP member.

South Africa: De Klerk—Minister Resigned in Interest of NP, Government

MB2102191996 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1900 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN Feb 21 SAPA — Welfare Minister Abe Williams resigned his Cabinet position in the interests of the National Party [NP] and the government of national unity, NP leader FW de Klerk said on Wednesday night.

Williams, the most senior black NP member, quit after raids by the Office of Serious Economic Offences on his homes and offices in Cape Town and Pretoria earlier on Wednesday. De Klerk said in a statement that he had held an "in-depth discussion" with Williams after the raids. "Flowing from this discussion, he has decided to resign with immediate effect from the Cabinet in the interest of the National Party and the government of national unity."

Williams' letter of resignation had made it clear that the resignation should not be interpreted as an admission relating to any crime or irregularity. "I would like to thank Minister Williams for his service in the National

Party in his capacity as minister and should like to express the hope that further investigations will proceed in a fair and reasonable manner and that justice will prevail."

A government source said no successor to Williams in Cabinet had been discussed yet.

South Africa: Further on Resignation of National Health Minister

*MB2102192296 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1852 GMT 21 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN Feb 21 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela has accepted the resignation of Welfare and Population Development Minister Abe Williams, whose offices and homes were searched by staff of the Office of Serious Economic Offences [OSEO] on Wednesday.

Mandela's spokesman Joel Netshitenzhe told SAPA on Wednesday night that Mandela had been contacted by National Party [NP] leader and Deputy President F W de Klerk "indicating that Minister Williams has offered to resign with immediate effect". Mandela had accepted his resignation, Netshitenzhe said.

Williams is the NP's most senior black member. The raids took place soon after 9AM while Williams was at a cabinet meeting also attended by Mandela and de Klerk.

The African National Congress in its reaction said if a crime had been committed, the due process of the law had to take its course without fear or favour. The OSEO has declined to say what charges are being investigated against the minister, but ANC Western Cape MEC [member of the Executive Council] Ebrahim Rasool on Wednesday afternoon claimed to have initiated the move and made allegations about pension contract irregularities.

Williams in a statement denied acting "in an improper manner" and undertook to co-operate fully with the authorities. "I wish to clearly state that I have not at any stage acted in an improper manner and that I will give my full co-operation to the Office of Serious Economic Offences in order for the investigation to be dealt with as speedily as possible." He refused to comment further.

OSEO spokesman advocate Jan Swanepoel said: "We are in the initial stages of the investigation. It could take a long time. Eventually the attorney-general will have to decide whether anyone will be prosecuted." Swanepoel said the swoop was "the result of a search warrant obtained from a judge in the Supreme Court".

Rasool told a hastily convened press conference he had forwarded information concerning Williams to the authorities.

South Africa: Mbeki Calls for Nation-Building, Reconciliation

*MB2202091996 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television
Network in English 22 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy President Thabo Mbeki says that South African needs to build a common nationhood and a shared destiny.

Speaking at the 150th anniversary of Bloemfontein, Mr. Mbeki added that people's diversities should be celebrated and not be allowed to divide them. Mr. Mbeki said people had to eliminate the hostile legacies of the past, and never repeat them. He said the resources of the cities in the new South Africa had to be made available to all residents, adding that the future centered around the concepts of nation-building, transformation and reconciliation.

South Africa: Senate Passes Land Reform Bill Over Freedom Front Protests

*MB2102182996 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1751 GMT 21 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SENATE February 22 SAPA — Legislation giving labour tenants a chance to buy the land they use and occupy was passed by the Senate on Thursday over the opposition of the Freedom Front [FF].

The Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Bill now has to go back to the National Assembly to have Senate amendments made. Senator Dries Bruwer (FF) said the principle that farm labourers were entitled to property rights where they worked was wrong. If taken to its logical conclusion it meant that a city worker should be able to get property rights "in some or other way" at his place of employment.

He favoured land redistribution if it was scientifically done, but this Bill had a political motive. Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom said the measure aimed at improving the living conditions of one of the most oppressed and fragile groups in society, and at restoring the rights of a marginalised group of people.

South Africa: Cabinet Outlines Terms for Illegal Aliens To Remain

*MB2102162996 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1538 GMT 21 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN Feb 21 SAPA — Southern Africans living illegally in South Africa

will not be repatriated if they fulfill certain requirements, Cabinet decided on Wednesday.

Those who would qualify includes illegal aliens who could prove they had resided in South Africa for five years and who were engaged in productive economic activity either in the informal or formal sector, cabinet secretary Jakes Gerwel said. Illegal aliens involved with a long-term South African partner or spouse or who had dependents in the country could also qualify. Those who qualified would have to apply for the necessary exemption within the prescribed period.

Details would be announced by the Department of Home Affairs. Exemption would not be granted if an applicant was guilty of certain criminal offences, Gerwel said. [Words indistinct] decision had been in response to a request from Mozambican president Joachim Chissano for a moratorium on Mozambican repatriations.

However, the department of home affairs who had investigated the matter had developed a more structured approach which covered illegal aliens from all Southern African Development Community countries.

South Africa: Assembly Approves 6 Billion-Rand Budget Adjustment Bill

*MB2102175396 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1657 GMT 21 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NATIONAL ASSEMBLY — The R6 billion [rands] Adjustments Appropriations Bill, to provide additional funds, was passed unanimously on Wednesday.

The approval of the Bill brings the total revised government expenditure level to R160.4 billion, R6 billion more than budgeted for in the 1995/96 budget in March last year. The ANC believed that the overrun of R6 billion was "not excessive", Barbara Hogan said.

However, it was concerned about the amounts allocated to education in the provinces and welfare spending. Most of the R1 billion set aside in the Transitional Reserve would be used for pensions. Also raising concern was the amount of money not being spent by departments in their budgets.

In the Appropriation Bill of 1995 an amount of [figure indistinct] billion was voted to which R28.6 billion was added in respect of interest on public debt. This brought total estimated expenditure to R154.4 billion. Of the R6 billion overrun, R1.522 billion was allocated to cover the revenue shortfall in the provincial administrations. The reason for the underestimation in their budgets was a result of the very poor data bases that the provinces had to work from. Provision is also made for a R1 billion

transitional reserve, which would mostly be spent on pensions.

South Africa: Agriculture's Importance to National Economy Outlined

*MB2102163496 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
21 Feb 96 p 9*

[Report by Norman Chandler in the Pretoria bureau]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Standard Bank says the importance of agriculture with capital assets of about R70-billion [rands] — to the South African economy is often underestimated.

The bank says in a special agriculture review published last week that despite the fact that farmers have suffered many setbacks — through drought, floods, the recession and disease — the actual value of production has reached R18-billion and is expected to contribute 4.4% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) this year.

It also says the sector remains one of the country's most important foreign exchange earners, despite weak crops due to climatic conditions, and that the percentage of agricultural exports to total exports (including gold) had increased from 4.7% in 1983 to about 7% last year.

Latest information indicates that the agricultural debt now stands at about R20-billion, the highest in 20 years. Of that, 34% was owed to commercial banks, 23% to the Land Bank, 20% to cooperatives, 8% to the Agricultural Credit Board and the remainder to private investors and small financial institutions.

Chris Lombard, the bank's regional banking services managing director, says that "in the rural economy, the contribution of agriculture is critically important and will remain a major driving force, especially when forward and backward linkages and multiplier effects of the agricultural sector with the rest of the economy are taken into account".

He warns against shortsighted neglect of the agricultural sector by the Government, adding that the establishment of a long-term policy for farming "which acknowledges that the international playing fields are not level and that agricultural production capacity cannot be switched on and off, are imperative for a healthy sector".

In a series of graphs, the bank says that various crops have been increasing steadily in price since the 1994-95 season due to the adoption of a free market system.

"The change brought a number of adjustments to the pricing structures of commodities (and) most noticeable was the huge premium of R180 to R370 per [metric] ton which buyers were prepared to pay for white maize

as a result of a shortage of the commodity," the review says.

South Africa: Court Addresses Squatter Situation in KwaZulu/Natal

MB2202090996 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television Network in English 0500 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu/Natal has 1,000 squatters living in 20,000 shelters, and the numbers are growing by 1,500 people and 300 shacks each month.

These figures were revealed in a Supreme Court application by 312 businessmen to compel the Pietermaritzburg/Msunduzi Council to act against illegal squatting. The problem was highlighted in October last year when a businessman lodged a similar application. The council agreed to remove the squatters, but was apparently doing nothing to meet its legal responsibilities to do so. However, city planner Brian Bassett said extensive negotiations between all parties concerned were being held to find a solution.

South African Press Review for 22 Feb

MB2202120396

[FBIS Report]

THE SOWETAN

Affirmative Action Strongly Encouraged — Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 22 February in a page-12 editorial notes that if the draft policy paper on affirmative action being discussed in the Department of Labor is actually put into legislation, "it will give a major boost to the process of bringing about industrial justice and correcting the wrongs of the past in the workplace." Although it would have been better for public and private institutions to voluntarily rid themselves of discriminatory practices, "the Government has had no option but to make some

form of intervention." The proposed measures include "targets" set for the public sector, "while the private sector would be encouraged to follow equitable policies through a mixture of fines and tax incentives." These proposals will be the subject of some controversy, but "they represent a noble intent, which we fully support."

THE STAR

The Country Needs Attorneys — "At a time when the country can least afford it," says the lead page-20 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 22 February, "the justice system is facing a crisis." Acting Attorney General Kevin Attwell has revealed that by the end of the month there will be 43 vacancies for state prosecutors due to the Justice Department's "hopelessly inadequate budget" which is "unable to compete with the private sector when it comes to making permanent appointments, and so qualified attorneys and advocates are leaving in droves." In fact, some former employees are offering their services on a consultancy basis at 1,000 rand a day. However, these people aren't just leaving for the money, but because of the department's new affirmative action policy and being "swamped down with work since their jurisdiction to try cases was increased." There is a need for "a serious reassessment of the entire justice system" including "remuneration for prosecutors, magistrates and judges."

Paper To Continue to "Tell it Like it is" — An editorial on the same page defends the newspaper's article on the intelligence community's practices against "the enemies of the state." It states, "we are not suggesting Nat-era harassment is back, but use this opportunity to remind spooks and bureaucrats of the new order that their activities will come under close scrutiny." However, "we are not convinced lawful procedures are being followed or necessary controls are in place." It further states that "seeking to intimidate this paper was a poor tactic." In the future "we will be even more vigilant."

Angola

Angola: Prime Minister Receives British Development Minister

MB2102195996 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Marcolino Moco this afternoon received British Overseas Development Minister Lynda Chalker, with whom he discussed the Angolan economy and the development of the peace process. Speaking to journalists at the end of the meeting, the British minister said the peace process' success depends on stabilizing the economy.

[Begin Chalker recording, in English with passage-by-passage translation into Portuguese] Next month I will go to Washington for talks with World Bank and the IMF. So it is very important for us to get acquainted with the government's economic program. Only when the economy is stabilized will the peace process be successful. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Angola: Further on MPLA Central Committee Session

MB2202103096 London BBC World Service in Portuguese 2030 GMT 21 Feb 96

[From the "Londres, Ultima Hora" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Passage indistinct] Prime Minister Marcolino Moco should inform the head of state of all his moves, but the president's initial plans backfired. Following his appointment, Marcolino Moco adopted a position independent from the Office of the President, which did not please Jose Eduardo dos Santos. There has been a dispute over the responsibilities of the two men for some time now. Using his presidential powers, Dos Santos has been chairing the most important Ministers Council meetings. Very recently, however, the Political Bureau of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA] decided to take action and put the house in order — the prime minister should now be responsible for running the government and making the most important economic decisions.

This was a tactical defeat for Jose Eduardo dos Santos. The president and his closest allies did not waver. They decided that it was necessary to distribute powers more evenly, arguing that power was excessively distributed. In view of the new democratic area, they reasoned, it would be better not to split power even further. The Central Committee's decision to practically strengthen the president's powers is a logical consequence of the arguments. The party has come out weakened from the Central Committee session because it is divided.

But the Angolan ruling party is not only facing domestic problems. Its relations with Angolan society are marked by one of the worst crises ever. The decision to impose restrictions on the news media could widen its unpopularity even further. Apparently, the Luanda Antenna Commercial radio service has been ordered to discontinue its complaints [Livro de Reclamacoes] program.

Angola: UNITA Reports Army Violations at Unavem-3 Meeting

MB2202081896 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 22 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] Military Command for Lunda Norte Province has met in Samba Caju, Lunda Norte Province, with Colonel (Garina), a Zimbabwean who heads the regional UN Angola Verification Mission [Unavem]-3 office. The UNITA Military Command protested against military operations launched by the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] in areas recently vacated by UNITA soldiers moving to assembly areas. These incidents occurred in (Panazambi), Changombe, and Goche areas. In Calume, FAA soldiers abducted eight civilians and plundered their property.

The UNITA Military Command for Cuanza Norte Province also complained about poor communications with the Unavem-3 team in N'dalatando which prevents inspection of FAA's violations of the peace accord. In view of the situation, the UNITA Military Command often sends its complaints to the Unavem-3 office in Negage.

The Unavem-3 commander promised to investigate the situation.

Mozambique

Mozambique: President Chissano Receives Nigerian Foreign Minister

MB2102162496 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Joaquim Chissano received in his office this morning Nigerian Foreign Minister Chief Tom Ikimi, with whom he discussed the latest political developments in Nigeria. Chief Ikimi, who is in Maputo as a special envoy of the Nigerian head of state, informed President Chissano about his government's commitment to return power to civilians and democratize Nigeria.

Namibia

Namibia: Finance Minister Delivers Government's 1996/97 Budget*MB2102175296 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1653 GMT 21 Feb 96*

[Report by David Isaacson]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WINDHOEK Feb 21 SAPA — Namibia's economic growth in 1995 dropped more than half compared to the previous year, largely because of poor performances in the key industries of fish processing, mining and agriculture.

Delivering the 1996/97 Budget to Parliament on Wednesday, Finance Minister Helmut Angula said the government would have to exercise fiscal discipline and step up its efforts to achieve the first national development plan. The plan, drawn up in 1994, requires a five percent economic growth a year from 1995 to 2000 and increasing income per capita and employment.

As a result the development budget would increase 21 percent to ND824 million [Namibian dollars]. The Budget estimates expenditure at ND5.073-billion and revenue at ND4.524-billion — a 4.1 percent deficit of Gross Domestic Product at ND13.52-billion.

"After a vigorous expansion in economic activity of 5.8 percent during 1994, the growth in the Namibian economy in 1995 fell markedly to about two percent," Angula said. The agriculture sector fell by seven percent last year after a 20 percent growth in 1994, and mining operations expanded at lower levels. Diamond and uranium mines were the best performers with increased outputs at only slightly lower rates. Fish processing dropped largely because of adverse oceanic conditions which left the pelagic industry with smaller quotas.

Angula said the ND549-million deficit would be financed with a ND100-million cash surplus, ND50-million concessionary foreign loans, and borrowing from domestic sources through treasury bills and medium-term government securities. Debt at the end of 1996/97 was expected to rise to ND3.19-billion, the minister said, but added that it would be reduced to ND2.02-billion when final agreement was reached with South Africa on Namibia's ND1.4-billion pre-independence debt.

But even with the pending write-off, Angula remained cautious about the country's debt saying it had grown faster than the economy. "At an expected economic growth rate of five percent, the expected increase in the public debt of 3.3 percent of GDP would be within the accepted norm."

Swaziland

Swaziland: World Bank Denies Report of Freezing Further Loans*MB2102202896 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network
in English 1600 GMT 21 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The World Bank denies knowledge that it ever decided to put on hold any further financial assistance to Swaziland in the wake of the mass stayaway that brought this country to a standstill. The bank says Swaziland has a good record of payment of loans. The statement from the bank was distributed to the press by the minister of finance, Dr. Derek Von Wissel. THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND last week said the World Bank had decided to freeze funds to Swaziland because of the mass stayaway, but the bank says the TIMES report has no substance, confirming that it has no doubts about Swaziland's ability to repay loans. The statement says repayment of the scheduled mission was deferred solely because it coincided with the period of the national stayaway. The World Bank is reported as ready to arrange missions to discuss new loan projects when requested by the government in Mbabane.

Swaziland: 'Millions' Reportedly Lost in Government Treasury 'Scam'*MB2102135596 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER
in English 21 Feb 96 pp 1, 2*

[Report by Pat Jele]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government is investigating a fraud scam involving millions of Emalangeni in the Treasury department in which state funds are used to pay for fictitious goods.

According to officials at the Treasury Department the fraud has come about because of the lack of a mechanism to cross-check and verify the delivery of goods ordered by various ministries.

It is alleged that officials in various government ministries order fictitious goods from suppliers who are also in the syndicate and then share the money claimed from the Treasury department amongst themselves.

The office of the Accountant General confirmed this yesterday and said investigations to bring the culprits to book are being conducted.

Some purchasing officers are said to inform the Treasury department that items bought for their respective ministries had been delivered and the Treasury department should pay for them.

So serious is the issue that the government has decided to conduct investigations and also cross-check all items

paid for and said to have been delivered to the respective ministries that submitted orders for purchases.

The office of the Accountant General said the Treasury department has no reason to refuse payment if all the necessary documentation has been properly filled up and signed by relevant authorities calling for payment.

"Once an invoice and a delivery note is made available to the Treasury department and signed by relevant authorities we have no reason to refuse payment.

"That is how the scam is perpetrated because we pay out the money but we do not check if the items have been delivered," an official from the office of the Accountant General said.

It has however not yet been established as to how many government ministries and departments are being investigated for the scam.

Such information has been kept secret by the treasury department so that investigations are not jeopardised.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: Officials Note Planned Proposals to U.S. Secretary Brown

MB2102195596 Harare Zimbabwe National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 21 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zimbabwe says it will press for an increase in its tobacco exports to the United States during a meeting with U.S. Government officials and businessmen at the Southern African Development Community [SADC] meeting which opens in Gaborone, Botswana, tomorrow. In an interview with ZIANA [ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] in Harare today, the minister of industry and commerce, Comrade Herbert Murerwa, said he would be joining other SADC ministers at the meeting with American secretary for industry and commerce, Mr. Ron Brown. Comrade Murerwa said Zimbabwe will, among other things, ask the Americans to relax their restriction on tobacco imports from Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe: Independent MP Urges Boycott of Presidential Election

MB2102175796 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 15 Feb 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The forthcoming presidential elections are a ploy to hoodwink the international community to believe that there is democracy in Zimbabwe, independent Member of Parliament for Harare South Margaret Dongo has said, calling for opposition candidates to withdraw from the race.

She said if the elections were meant to be a free expression of Zimbabweans, then the calls for the removal of anomalies which had created an uneven playing field should [words indistinct] been heeded through convening a multi-party conference on constitutional reform.

She said a massive abstention would record a silent no vote to the chicanery of the ruling ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] and make the elections reflect the farce that they were.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa of United Parties and Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole of ZANU (Ndonga) are contesting ZANU-PF's Robert M Mugabe in the elections scheduled for March 16 and 17.

"I appeal to those who can speak to Muzorewa and Sithole to make them appreciate that Mugabe's embarrassment would be more pronounced if he goes to the polls on his own, for then there will be no legitimacy to his claim to the presidency.

"Let them not be used to give credibility to elections which have already been rigged. I am speaking from experience," she said.

Dongo said the massive state resources such as the allocation of \$32 million to ZANU-PF, the three helicopters used by the president during the campaign, vehicles used by civil servants attending ZANU-PF rallies and the manhours lost should be diverted to the procurement of scarce drugs and food for starving Zimbabweans.

"If ZANU-PF was genuine in wanting to help the people as they said in the liberation struggle they should stop spending money on the party and start spending money on the people," she said.

Zimbabwe: Column Assesses Election Campaign, Mugabe's Leadership

MB2102185896 Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE in English 15 Feb 96 p 11

[Report by Kempton Makamure: "Mugabe's Leadership"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE SUNDAY GAZETTE is no more. Yet another independent voice of our national media has been forced by economic factors to close. Zimbabwe is the poorer for the disappearance of THE SUNDAY GAZETTE. Only the ignorant and politically immature among us will be naive enough not to mourn the disappearance of the Sunday paper. Of course, the death of the paper will be celebrated in the one-eyed, one-eared and half-mind official sycophant circles of Zimpapers and the partly Press.

But out of the debris, the African Agenda column of **THE SUNDAY GAZETTE** has fortunately been salvaged and it continues on its current critical theme of examining problems of national leadership in Zimbabwe. The one-sided and lopsided presidential election campaign provides us with some food for thought this week as we examine the leadership (not the personal aspects) of Robert Mugabe, the national President of Zimbabwe and ZANU-PF's Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front] incontestable candidate for the presidency.

There have been good things, even great things about Mugabe's leadership of Zimbabwe. During the hard days of the liberation struggle, Mugabe succeeded to the ZANLA [Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army] leadership at a time of terrible internal factional splits and many guerrillas credit Mugabe's ascendancy to the leadership as having reduced the summary military executions of cadres for petty and factional political reasons. To liberated Zimbabwe, Mugabe with his controversial policy of reconciliation allowed the country to settle down to an era of peaceful co-existence between the former colonial black slaves and their former white masters.

The Shona-Ndebele rivalry was another great challenge to Zimbabwean nationhood. At one time Matabeleland was turned into a bloody war zone. But thanks to the efforts of Canaan Banana and the ability of Mugabe to trust in those efforts, the blacks, through the Unity Accord of 1987, were brought together in political unity and the stupidity and craziness of a fratricidal holocaust was stopped dead in its tracks.

Despite his revolutionary rhetoric, Mugabe's approach to national economic development was consistently if not erringly pragmatic. The absence of adventurism gave time and opportunity for blacks to enter and adapt and mature in positions of institutional leadership including the private sector.

Without the experience of leadership positions in the economy as managers, directors and supervisors in companies and parastatals, blacks would not have acquired the inside experience of corporate skills and culture which make them formidable contenders and actors in the economic field today. We needed that time, and Mugabe's pragmatic approach afforded us that opportunity. Some of us may have opted for the quick and dramatic revolutionary solution to the question but on hindsight such an approach may have been sweet revenge in the short term but perhaps irreparably harmful to Zimbabwe in the long term.

On the social question of gender issues or the women question as it is called in Leninist tradition, Mugabe proved himself a progressive leader and the legal protections existing in our legal system are thanks to the openness of his leadership on this question. The women's lobby today is more powerful than opposition political parties in terms of direction and content.

But Mugabe's leadership has also had its fair share of serious weaknesses. Here we will deal only with the strategic ones in terms of national development.

The country today does not have strong roots and protections of internal freedoms for the people. The President's Office, the CIO terrorised political thinking in this country for a long time and the country still has to overcome this culture of fear and intimidation. This is a legacy Mugabe must take full responsibility for. He did not need the terror of the CIO to keep power. That we cannot account for the body of Rashiwe Guzha, a born Zimbabwean citizen, who was last seen in CIO hands and nobody is willing to uncover the truth will be a blemish on Mugabe's leadership.

Mugabe's leadership is seen as having glaring weaknesses in the manner in which his ministers and government managers have been operating. Acts of glaring incompetent have gone on uncorrected. So also have been acts of blatant corruption. Mugabe does not fire his ministers for corruption or incompetence many people have observed. Ironically Mugabe will fire a government leader for commitment, honesty and over zealousness and Herbert Ushewokunze was a classic example.

Many people have wondered why a sick minister with no hope of active life would stay on the government payroll for over a year. Do-Nothing or Do-Little types do well as ministers in Mugabe's cabinet. Many people attribute the current decay in government departments as a direct and cumulative result of the failure of Mugabe as a manager to appoint people on a good performance basis. Perhaps [words indistinct]. Finally, one of Mugabe's leadership failure is economic. For long periods of time, the ministries of Trade and Commerce and that of Economic Planning and Development have gone without a substantive minister in charge. If you want a healthy economy in today's world then your most dynamic government ministers must lead these ministries, yet, in Zimbabwe, this has been little appreciated with serious consequences to the economy of the country. For how long can we remain this way, is our question to Mugabe! It's time for a Change of Cloak for Zimbabwe.

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